

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 18 Oct 1954

SUBJECT Rural Area of Carpathian Foothills

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ACQUIRED**NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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DATE ACQUIRED

**SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The village of Laszki Murowene (49°31'N, 22°55'E), known as Skoliwna Murowena under the Soviet administration, is typical of the settlements in the Carpathian foothills of the Ukraine. Population of the village in 1942 was about eight hundred, consisting of Polish and Ukrainian stock. Economy of the village in 1942 was based partially on agrarian pursuit common to the area, and construction trade. Men engaged in the latter traveled to various villages doing carpentry work.
2. Farming was done on a private ownership basis. Holdings were small with the largest being six or seven mourt /sic/. Wheat and barley were the cash crops. No corn was grown. Farming equipment was all horse drawn. Powered equipment was unknown.
3. The area is spotted with forests and the terrain is rolling. There is no continuous stand, however, as is the case further into the Carpathian Massif. In the summer months wild edibles include a profusion of mushrooms, raspberries, and blueberries. Small game is the sole source of wild edibles in the winter.
4. The temperature remains well below freezing in winter months; the atmosphere is dry. Snow coverage is variable, though never unusually deep. Drifting occurs on roads particularly. Inhabitants are obliged to clear roads personally or remain snowbound. The snow surface is usually breakable crust.
5. Postal correspondence with Poland is still permissible. The contents of a letter from Laszki Murowene disclosed the fact that there was enough to eat. Most of the Polish residents had been sent away by the Soviet authorities.

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